

# OIL DERRICKS REMOVAL REQUESTED

## New State Building For Torrance

### EMPLOYMENT OFFICE TO BE MOVED

The State of California plans to expend \$142,500 to build a Department of Employment office in Torrance, according to state officials.

A building containing about 6500 square feet of floor space, costing \$122,500 is planned to be built on a site at Cravens avenue and Engracia Avenue, it was said. The site is reported to be purchased at a cost of less than \$20,000. The lot is reported to be 18,200 square feet in size, thus allowing for parking space on the premises. Official records indicate that it is owned by C. T. Peppy, under option to Sol Koch.

The State Department of Employment is now occupying the building at 1628 Cravens. The present office contains 3382 square feet. However, the 30-day cancellation clause in the contract allows the agreement between the State and the owner, Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster, to be absolved to allow for a new contract.

### Prudential Opens Office In Torrance

Prudential Life Insurance Company will establish its Harbor area and South Bay offices in Torrance on or before May 1, 1951, according to Howard Percy, realtor.

Prudential will move its present San Pedro office into the former State Departments of Welfare Building at the corner of Cravens and Marcelina Avenues, which the company has leased from the owner, Reno Langstaff.

The building, though not in use for some time, has been under lease to the State of California for \$388 a month.

The Torrance agency will serve as a central office, for the Harbor area. William Harper, district manager, said that the reason Torrance was selected as location for the central office was because, "Torrance is not only the center of population for this area, but it offers the most promise and greatest potential growth."

About 25 to 30 agents and a staff of 15 persons, operating from this office.

Percy reported that Prudential will improve the building, keeping within the bonds and restrictions of the National Production Agency.

### Vincent Thomas To Speak in North Torrance

The North Torrance Civic Improvement Association today announced that Vincent A. Thomas, Assemblyman for the 68th Assembly will be guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the association at McMaster Park Recreation Center on February 7th at 8 p.m.

Also on the agenda is discussion of plans for the Hard Luck dance being sponsored by the association in February.



GETTING IN SHAPE . . . for the Torrance High School Band Concert presented last Friday night at the High School Auditorium are members of the Torrance High School Band. The band was photographed during a salute to the Press. The band concert was dedicated to the memory of Cpl. Cameron "Ronny" Selover, who passed away two weeks ago as the result of an auto accident.



Serving Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, Shoestring, Keystone

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1951

SECOND YEAR

No. 54

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## TORRANCE PRESS

### Our New Name

#### "TORRANCE PRESS."

This newspaper greets its thousands of readers and advertisers with this edition under the title, "Torrance Press."

For legal reasons, however, and purposes of continuity, "Peninsula Press" also will appear in small type in the mast-heads.

The change from Peninsula Press to Torrance Press has been one of gradual process, and has come at the request not only of our readers and advertisers, but also was motivated by the fact that the 18 square miles of Torrance comprise more than half of the area we serve. Publishers of the Torrance Press are Torrance residents and home owners, Torrance is the seat of publication and since Torrance will be the "big town" of the area, we do not hesitate to tie the name of our fine city to our title.

The Torrance Press will continue to serve the greater Torrance area with blanket circulation, in addition to its bonafide list of paying subscribers.

In the 15-square-mile area served by the Torrance Press, (in addition to Torrance proper), are Lomita, the Shoestring Strip, Keystone, Harbor City, Walteria and adjacent sections.

The Press approaches its third year of service to the people of the greater Torrance area, and we are happy to be a part of this growing district. We shall continue to fulfill the obligations of a newspaper to the community, and to give Torrance the best newspaper ever.

W. R. ZAPPAS, Business Manager  
M. L. OWENS, Editor

### If You Want to Keep That Pet, Confine Him to Yard

If you want to keep your dog, you'd better keep him home, advises Mrs. Dorothy Fallon of the South Bay Humane Society. Mrs. Fallon said that there is a "leash law" in Torrance as well as in all bay cities. Any dog found roaming on the streets, without a leash between it and its master will be picked up and taken to the Humane Society. Whether the dog is or is not wearing a license makes no difference.

Mrs. Fallon added, "It is impossible to notify the owners of the pet picked up if the dog is not wearing its license." Many complaints are received every day by the police, the Press and the Humane Society, especially from the newer sections of Torrance, of loose dogs ruining lawns and causing other damage. It is urged that dog owners keep their pets within the confines of their own homes.

### Percy and Clayton Named 1951 Realty Board Chairmen

Appointed this week by C. J. "Paddy" Ryan as 1951 committee chairmen of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board Association were Howard Percy, of Percy and Vaughn, and Bob Clayton, of Alter Realty.

Percy was appointed Professional Conduct Committee chairman of the Torrance Lomita Realty Board. He was also appointed as a member of the 21st District Professional Conduct Committee of the California Real Estate Association by W. E. Bowen, Regional vice-president.

Clayton was named as chairman for the Educational Committee of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board by Ryan. He was also appointed as a member to the educational committee of the California Real Estate Association and the National Real Estate Association.

### 2 Die, Marine Escapes Death In Collision

Two men were killed and one, a Marine, suffered serious injuries as the result of a head-on collision 5:40 a.m. Sunday at Hawthorne Blvd., at Del Amo Blvd., between a loaded milk truck and an automobile.

Olen Edward Beasley, 34, 4916 W. 133rd St., Lawndale, and James E. Osborn, 40, of 1605 Faymont Ave., Manhattan Beach, in the milk truck, both died as a result when their milk truck collided with an automobile driven by William Pierce Davis, 23, 3906 Emerald St., Torrance, a marine stationed at Camp Pendleton. Davis suffered compound fractures of both legs and was removed to Long Beach Naval Hospital. Beasley, dairy route supervisor, and Osborn, driving the milk truck, had left the nearby dairy a few minutes earlier when they were hit by the automobile going.

(Continued on Page Two)

### Knolls Section Soon To Get Street Lights

Robert Carlson, president of the Knolls Home Owners Association, announced that he has received word from officials of the Southern California Edison Company that street lights in the section represented by the Knolls Association will be installed in the near future.

The 19 poles to be installed cost the homeowners in the area 10.13 each for the 95% of those who paid their share. Cost of the total project is \$1,140. Carlson said that the City will do the installation work.



PICTURED ABOVE . . . are the before and after photos of an oil well in the La Mesa Field near Santa Barbara. In the top photo is the older type installation, without the derrick. In the lower photo is the newer type hydraulic pumping system. The sign on the pole and the metal plate are the only above ground indications of the pumping unit.



OPEN HATCHES . . . in the foreground are the only visible identifications of the new type hydraulic pumping unit. Behind these can be seen a row of signs, each of which mark other wells. In the background is the derrick used for drilling a well and this derrick will be removed when drilling is completed.

### Local Merchant Buys Property

New owner of a market building at the corner of Gardena Ave. and Vermont Blvd., in Gardena, is Sam Levy, owner of Levy's Department Store in Torrance. Levy purchased the building from Paul Van Riper last week.

Levy also plans to modernize the building.

11,190  
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## Realtors Urge Liability Bond

Two moves to prevent future property damage and possible loss of life due to toppling of old, wooden oil derricks in wind storms were underway in Torrance this week.

One was sponsored by the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board which asks that the City Council enact a law to "require all owners of oil derricks in Torrance to post with the city a certificate certifying that they carry liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage, with limits of at least \$50,000, or maybe \$100,000."

The other was a spontaneous move on the part of residents in the vicinity of oil derricks to have the derricks removed altogether, and if wells are productive to have pumps placed underground and out-of-sight.

It was charged that the old, wooden derricks are weakened with age, rotten in many cases and subject to collapse in winds of less velocity than the one of a few weeks ago which blew down 11 wooden derricks and caused considerable damage.

Many of them are not in use, it was said. Abandonment and capping of such wells will be demanded, according to a statement to the Press.

### 11 LETTERS

A letter to the City Council, approved by the Realty Board and signed by its president, C. J. Ryan, reads:

"The recent windstorm in this area which blew down 11 wooden derricks in the Torrance oil field with considerable damage to other property, but without any physical damage to any persons, must be construed as a warning so that some action can be taken to prevent any future catastrophe. Therefore the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board, respectfully request that your honorable body institute proceedings that would require all owners of oil derricks in Torrance to post with the city a certificate certifying that they carry liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage, with limits of at least \$50,000."

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### School Concert Dedicated To Ronnie Selover

The Torrance High School Band Concert and Jazz Panorama presented last Friday night at the High School Auditorium was dedicated to the memory of Cpl. Cameron "Ronnie" Selover, who passed away two weeks ago as the result of an auto accident.

Selover, the son of Frank Stanley Selover and Helen Cameron Selover of Torrance graduated from Torrance High School with the class of June, 1950. He was also a member of the band.

The first part of the program included selections of the band, and was directed by Harold Dunn, band instructor. Student director, Ross Sciarrotta, directed two selections, "Military Escort," by David Bennett, and "Bells Across the Meadows," by A. W. Ketelbeg.

After the intermission, the "Jazz Panorama" was presented in five episodes — Deep South, Old Dive, New York Night Club '25, Soda Fountain, and Gershwin's Home. Narrator was Leonard Reid.

### Torrance Chest Drive Exceeds Goal

With the Harbor Area Community Chest fund \$3,100 behind the planned quota of \$106,000, Torrance has exceeded its quota of \$19,460 by raising \$20,163, Sam Levy, Harbor area chairman of the Community Chest, announced this week.

Total raised by the Harbor Area is \$103,000. This area includes the localities of Torrance, Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, San Pedro, Harbor City, Gardena, Wilmington and Lomita.

### Firm Builds Branch Plant In This Area

Construction will begin within the next week on the branch plant of the Associated Piping and Engineering Company of Compton to be in the Torrance area.

The plant, which will be completed within 60 days after construction begins, will be located on a four acre lot 350 feet north of West Francisco St. on Normandie Ave. Approximately 15 new men will be employed at the plant, announced Louis M. Jones, Compton plant manager. Principal owner of the firm is F. George Humiston, of West Los Angeles.

The plant is planned to provide drop forge operations.

This was disclosed in a permit hearing held before the county zoning board Monday morning. Louis M. Jones, vice president and plant manager here, appeared before the zoning board in behalf of the permit. The firm fabricates pipe and fittings, chiefly to supply refineries.

Jones explained that the chief purpose of the plant would be the use of a 9000 pound drop forge hammer, an operation that would not be possible at its Compton location where it has only light industry zoning and extensive adjoining residential areas. While the property in the Torrance area is in a M-3 heavy zoning classification.

(Continued on Page Two)

### 100 Buyers Seek Transportation

Torrance Press Want-Ad readers are clamoring for transportation cars during these days of impending shortage. This fact was verified last week when a local Used Car dealer received over 100 calls on the 60c ad below.

1937 FORD TUDOR—Motor overhauled, clean inside. Call TORRANCE 2426.

### YMCA Drive Gets Kickoff for '51

The YMCA drive for \$12,650 in funds received its start 6:30 p.m. last night at a dinner attended by almost 100 YMCA volunteers. It was held in the Woman's Clubhouse.

Dr. R. R. Smith, general chairman, said that the workers have been divided into five groups under the overall leadership of Warren Hamilton. Heading the units are William Peterson, Donald Hitchcock, A. C. Turner, John Steinbaugh and Roy Peterson.

Among the varied activities in which the YMCA served Tor-

rance during 1950 was the operation of a summer camping program attended by more than 200 local youths. The "Y" also sponsored a free "learn to swim campaign" during the Easter vacation, attended by 1,075 youths, and athletic leagues for men and boys, in which 8,959 attended.

"Good Neighbor Day" in Torrance, at which more than 1000 were fed breakfast at the Civic Auditorium, is also a YMCA project.

## No Nurses, No New Wards At Hospital

Patients from this area are being turned away from the Harbor General Hospital and transferred to the General Hospital in Los Angeles every day due to a lack of graduate nurses, explained J. E. Smits, director.

The hospital now employs 870 persons, on a net budget of \$2,400,000.

Smits said that with a monthly budget allotment of \$200,000, the hospital now uses only \$175,000 each month. He said that the hospital is budgeted to be able to open more wards for the existing need but cannot do so due to lack of available graduate nurses. At present, the hospital takes care of 700 patients. As soon as nurses are available, Smits continued, the hospital will employ them and open more wards to keep up with the present demand for medical service in this area.

## Heavy Rains Cause Floods Stall Autos

With the heavens spilling almost an inch and a half of rain in Torrance last Monday during a rain storm, streets were flooded, gutters became swirling torrents and a lake of water formed at Five-Points corner.

Many cars were stalled trying to cross flooded areas. At the intersection of 190th and Crenshaw, a car was sunk half-way in water. A truck was also stalled there.

Besides slowing traffic, many housewives in almost a dozen Hollywood Riviera homes reported that overflows surged into their garages and under their dwellings.

The rainfall figures are as follows:

Storm — 1.29 inches

Season — 3.46 inches

Last Year — 5.17 inches

### JAYCEES SPONSOR

## City Cleanup Campaign Set For February

"Cleanup the City" will be the slogan of all Jaycees for the month of February, announced Ed Karlow, Councilman and Junior Chamber of Commerce president. Mayor Bob Haggard issued a proclamation declaring the week of Feb. 4 to Feb. 10, 1951 as Cleanup Week in Torrance.

With Hal Massie as chairman for the February "Cleanup" campaign, 18 waste disposal units, purchased by the City, will be distributed throughout the central downtown section of Torrance to encourage local citizenry to keep their city clean.

Karlow reported that Jaycees will distribute little leaflets to all the local merchants, containing sections of a city ordinance, concerning disposal of trash.

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# Jr. Chamber Launches City Cleanup Campaign